(c) whether Government would hold a fair inquiry into the complaints received against the Station Master after removing him from there, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) by when, the Station Master is likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Last regular Station Superintendent at Mainpuri Station was Shri B.P. Singh who joined on 11.1.2002. He, however, fell sick on 1.2.2002 and was medically decategorised on 7.5.2002. Shri S.K. Singh, seniormost Station Master has been looking after duties of Supervisory Station Superintendent, Mainpuri since 8.2.2002.

(c) Some complaints received in the past, have been enquired but could not be substantiated.

(d) There are three vacancies in the category of Station Superintendent (in grade Rs. 7450-11500) on Allahabad Division. Filling up vacancies is a continuous process, which is dependent upon the availability of suitable candidates. However, order for posting of Shri N.K. Ram against existing higher grade vacancy of Supervisory Station Superintendent, Mainpuri has been issued.

National Citizen Card for information security

2629. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether as per World Economic Forum, India is ranked 41st in the table of world competitiveness, which is decided by progressiveness of the industry, technological push and the status of deregulation; if so, whether in order to obtain higher rank for India, an annovative system for competitiveness of both the service and manufacturing sectors needs to be evolved;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce a multi-purpose national citizen card, in order to achieve the said objective and to prevent the breach of information security; and

(c) if so, what is Government's plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As per World Economic Forum's publication —"The Global Competitiveness Report 2001-2002," India is ranked 57th out of a sample of 75 countries, in the table of Growth Competitiveness Index (GCI) Ranking 2001. Yes, in order to obtain higher rank of India a system for competitiveness of both the service and manufacturing sectors needs to be evolved.

(b) and (c) As per the information provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs, there is a proposal for compulsory registration of citizens for issuing them multipurpose national identity cards.

Bio-Technology in agriculture sector

2630. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of achievements in application of Bio-Technology in Agriculture sector, especially in Rice, Horticulture and Sericulture;

(b) whether the Ministry has conducted any training programme in the country at the appropriate level, for the application of Bio-Technology in Agriculture; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Agricultural biotechnology has been accorded high priority since the inception of Department of Biotechnology. A number of programmes in this area since 1989, as R&D projects, the establishment of seven Centres for Plant Molecular Biology (CPMB) and large scale field demonstrations have been taken up. A number of multi-institutional projects on development of transgenics, quality improvement in wheat and rice have been initiated. Transformation system in important cultivars of rice has been developed successfully. Also, controlled open field trials of Bt-transgenic indica cultivar, IR-64 and Pusa Basmati-1 for resistance to yellow stem borer are likely to be conducted soon. Work on the other aspects like marker assisted selection for biotic and abiotic stress tolerance, bacterial leaf blight, DNA fingerprinting, hybrid rice production and development of Indian golden rice varieties has given important leads. In June 2000, India joined